

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figs. 6 to 8 illustrate the third preferred embodiment of the respiratory mask of this invention, which differs from the first embodiment in the structure of the shield. The bent sheet 1 of the shield of this embodiment is V-shaped instead of U-shaped. The shield further includes a flexible top rib 34 that is secured to the top side of the bent sheet 1 and that crosses the central and cheek portions 12, 11 of the bent sheet 1, and a flexible lower rib 35 that is secured to the bent sheet 1 below the top rib 34 and that crosses the central and cheek portions 12, 11 of the bent sheet 1. The central portion 12 of the bent sheet 1 is formed with a V-shaped groove 33 that extends from the bottom side to the top side of the bent sheet 1 in a transverse direction relative to the top and lower ribs 34, 35. The filter sheet 2 further has a central portion 224 that extends inwardly of the rim 21 from the rim portion 221 of the filter sheet 22 and that covers the ~~chamber~~ outer surface 210 at the outer end 214 of the rim 21, and a protrusion 2221 that protrudes outwardly from the central portion 224 of the filter sheet 22 into the V-shaped groove 33. The bent sheet 1 is formed of a plurality of non-woven fabric layers 31 (see the cutaway region in Fig. 6) and an air-impermeable plastic layer 32 embedded in the non-woven fabric layers 31. The top and lower ribs 34, 35 permit shaping of the bent sheet 1 to conform to the contour of the face of the wearer.